

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-06

COME-00 NSC-05 SS-15 MC-02 H-02 DODE-00 /072 W

----- 087645

R 230815Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4594

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT

QUESTIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 5132

1. THIS IS SECOND MESSAGE IN SERIES SUMMARIZING DUTCH
PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT STORY, WHICH
CONTINUES TO BE FOCUSED ON CHARGES OF BRIBERY AGAINST
DASSAULT. PRIMIN DEN UYL HAS TRIED MINIMIZE SCANDAL
AD WAS QUOTED ON OCTOBER 19 AS SAYING THAT AFFAIR
"NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT,", AND THAT "JUSTICE WILL TAKE ITS
COURSE." HE ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT CHOICE OF
SUCCESSOR AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY BRIBERY
CHARGES.

2. DANKERT, CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CHAMBER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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COMMITTEE, WHO REPORTED DASSAULT OVERTURES OF 1 1/2

MILLION GUILDER (\$550,000) IS QUOTED IN OCTOBER 22 TELEGRAAF TO HAVE SAID THAT, "OF THE FOUR AIRPLANES IN QUESTION, THE MIRAGE IS STILL THE ONE WHICH IS MOST SUITED TO DEMANDS WHICH ARE AT MOMENT VALID." DANKERT ALSO REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT DASSAULT SYG FRANCOIS SHOWED HIM SECRET BELGIAN MOD MEMO IN SPRING OF THIS YEAR IN WHICH VANDEN BOEYNANTS IS SAID TO HAVE SHOWN PREFERENCE FOR MIRAGE. POLITICAL EDITOR OF NRC HANDELSBLAD SEES AFFAIR AS HAVING SO RUINED ANY CHANGES THAT DASSAULT MAY HAVE HAD IN NETHERLANDS, THAT ONE ALMOST SUSPECTS THAT DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE APPROACHED BY AMERICAN OR SWEDE DISGUISED AS A DASSAULT REPRESENTATIVE.

3. GENERAL INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND PRESS REPORTS THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS OF SECOND CHAMBER HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED. PARLIAMENT WILL DISCUSS MATTER IN DEBATE OCTOBER 23, BUT EXPECTATION IS THAT QUESTIONING WILL BE PERFUNCTORY AS LONG AS JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION STILL UNDERWAY.

4. ONE FRONT-PAGE STORY OCT 22 REPORTING ON OPENING OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS, LINKS F-104 REPLACEMENT TO US POSITION ON KLM PASSENGER RIGHTS. REPORT CLAIMS THAT POLITICAL CIRCLES IN THE HAGUE EXPECT USG TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION LATER ON KLM IF GON BUYS US REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT.

GOULD

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Message Attributes

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